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CAMBODIA

The Neutral Harvest

Of all Southeast Asia's neutralists, none has made the art pay better than Cambodia's unpredictable chief of state, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, 37. Since 1955 Sihanouk has extracted \$290 million in aid from the U.S., \$22 million from France, \$23 million from Red China, and perhaps \$12 million from Russia. To keep himself from being compromised, Sihanouk, after each Western gift, generally scampers off to Peking or Moscow for an offsetting Red handout. Last week, in a dazzling

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appeals to the discriminating man who prefers masculine clothing that is not too extreme in any direction. Styling must be urbane, mature, comfortable. Shoulders must be natural, without padded exaggeration; the jacket slightly shorter for accentuated height; trousers straight and narrow for a youthful, slimming effect. Tailoring details must be painstakingly meticulous—the type that is traditional at Hart Schaffner & Marx where craftsmen take an old-fashioned pride in every stitch. Look for the HS&M label inside the jacket. It has been the symbol of distinguished tailoring for three generations of discriminating men. Today, it is sewn inside more suits



than any other fine label in the world.

display of diplomatic virtuosity, Sihanouk delivered a second rule of Asian ship: always bite the hand that feeds you.

Down from Moscow. To U.S. diplomats, the snap of Sihanouk's teeth is a familiar sound. Outraged because the U.S. refuses to share his conviction that Cambodia is in constant danger of invasion from neighboring Thailand and South Viet Nam, Sihanouk complains that many of the weapons the U.S. has furnished his 28,000-man Cambodian army are "more dangerous for the user than for the enemy." On one occasion last year, he publicly accused Allen Dulles, CIA director, of conspiring to unseat his regime.

All this must have looked heaven-sent to Moscow. Outside the Cambodian capital of Phnompenh a team of Russian engineers, working with 1,500 coolies, two and a half years ago began to build a 500-bed "Soviet-Khmer Friendship Hospital," matching anything in Moscow itself. Staffed by 18 Russian doctors and medical technicians—Cambodia itself has only a handful of native M.D.s—the new hospital was equipped with ten air-conditioned operating rooms, a cobalt "bomb" for cancer treatment, a hairdressing salon, room telephones, and pale blue potties in the children's wards.

On to Paris. Last week, with the hospital finally finished, a clutch of Russian dignitaries headed by Soviet Health Minister S. V. Kurashov showed up in Phnompenh for the dedication ceremonies. Plainly aware that only a week earlier Sihanouk had jailed 16 top Cambodian Communists for "working in liaison with foreigners," Minister Kurashov tried to play it cool. As a Cambodian army band emphasized its neutrality by alternating U.S. jazz with Russian lullabies, Kurashov brought Nikita Khrushchev's personal assurances that "the Soviet Union never interferes in the internal affairs of other nations. We are your true and trusted friend in your fight against imperialistic intrigues."

When Kurashov had finished, Sihanouk rose with a bland smile to thank the Russians for their generous gift. Then, still smiling, he added pointedly: "Cambodia is prepared to accept aid from any nation. But this does not give the donor the right to meddle in our affairs." Then, ignoring all the fine new hospital facilities before him, Prince Sihanouk set off for Paris—for medical treatment.

SOUTH AFRICA

R for Republiek

Nine months ago Prime Minister Hendrik Frensch Verwoerd ordered a nationwide referendum (whites only) to convert South Africa into a republic. He, like almost everyone else, expected a majority of South African voters on Oct. 5 to endorse his plans to depose Queen Elizabeth II as titular chief of state. But last week, as Verwoerd's Afrikaner-dominated National Party convened in dusty Bloemfontein under the proposed republican flag (with an R for Republiek in place of the Union Jack), the character of the



Russia's Kurashov with Sihanouk
Wee to all wobers.

ning a solid victory in the referendum were looking much less bright.

The opposition United Party, which speaks primarily for South Africa's 1.3 million English-speaking citizens, was campaigning vigorously against the republic, plastering walls and posts with hundreds of thousands of placards simply inscribed "no." But Verwoerd's main worry is the threat of widespread defections among his own 1.7 million Afrikaners, many of whom showed signs of losing enthusiasm for their long-proclaimed desire to break South Africa's ties with the British crown. In Johannesburg the Rand Daily Mail's poll of 100 people named Van der Merwe (the Afrikaner equivalent of Jones or Smith) found only 33 in favor of a republic, 20 opposed and the rest undecided.

Economic troubles have something to do with Afrikaner hesitation. The Sharpeville massacre of 72 South African blacks last March and the international revulsion that followed sent shares on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange plummeting \$1.2 billion as foreign investors withdrew their money. Afrikaner farmers and businessmen are feeling the pinch of the \$23 million in exports that South Africa is expected to lose this year as a result of the boycott of South African goods by Ghana, Malaya, the West Indies and others. And all South African businessmen are haunted by the fear that if Verwoerd proclaims a republic, other Commonwealth members may reject South Africa's request to remain, nonetheless, within the Commonwealth and its preferential tariff system.

To offset these painful economic considerations, Verwoerd last week pulled out some political stops. He called an end to the state of emergency under which South

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